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Tourism, Culture and Recreation
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Provincial Government Contributes $50,000 to Historic Anniversary Celebrations

The Provincial Government will contribute $50,000 to support a series of celebratory activities and events to mark historic milestones in the Trinity Bay North-Port Union region this year.

The Honourable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, made the announcement Friday, May 30, at a symposium in Port Union celebrating William Coaker and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Fishermen's Protective Union (FPU). The two-day event featured a series of lectures and discussions, and was the kick-off to more than 20 events planned to take place through to December 2008.

Minister Jackman said the funding, allocated through Budget 2008, is being provided to a partnership composed of the William F. Coaker Heritage Foundation, Rising Tide Threate and The Trinity Historical Society, know as the CRT Partnership.

"These three organizations wil' work together to celebrate several historic milestone anniversaries – the 100th anniversary of the FPU; the 30th anniversary of Rising Tide Theatre; and the 175th anniversary of the election of Trinity merchant John Bingley Garland as the first Speaker of the House of Assembly," Minister Jackman said. "The Provincial Government recognizes the significance of these events to Newfoundland and Labrador's heritage and culture and the importance of highlighting these anniversaries in a meaningful way."

Edith Samson of the William F. Coaker Heritage Foundation said activities will include exhibits, school programs, a gala event, a fall symposium, and a number of interpretive performances by Rising Tide Theatre in Port Union.

"This is a significant year for celebration, but the programming created through the CRT Partnership is intended to form a model for activities that will continue in future years," Ms. Samson said. "The events not only celebrate the milestones of the area, but will also provide significant lasting contributions to tourism and heritage in our region, and to the province as a whole."

Minister Jackman said that the CRT Partnership has the potential to contribute to the economic development and sustainability of the region by attracting additional resident and non-resident visitation.

"We anticipate these added attractions – which will run throughout the summer and fall –will draw more visitors to the region, and encourage them to stay longer," Minister Jackman said. "These events also support our specific efforts to extend the tourism season along the Discovery Trail."

The funding provided to the partnership is part of a broader strategy to develop more creative communities and regions, and is consistent with the goals outlined in the Provincial Government's $17.6 million cultural plan, *Creative Newfoundland and Labrador*: *The Blueprint for Development and Investment in Culture* (2006).

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